AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

Published by the Information Department of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL

2

509 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

VOL. II, # 13 July 30, 1949

PARTIAL AGREEMENT AT AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS. The Big Four Foreign Ministers' deputies who are drafting an Austrian Treaty (Staatsvertrag) in London have approved an article (Art.38) waiving Austrian claims against Germany and at the same time guaranteeing the restitution of Austrian property now in Germany. Agreement was also reached on Art. 44 which guarantees the protection of property of minority and racial groups in Austria. These actions raised to six the number of treaty articles approved by the deputies since they resumed their work in London on July 1. Thirteen articles out of a total of fifty-three remain to be approved. Technical discussions on the definition of German assets in Austria came temporarily to a standstill as the Soviet Ambassador, Georgi N. Zarubin, insisted that the wording of the recent Paris communiqué of the Four Foreign Ministers on that subject be followed to the letter while the Western deputies protested that the communiqué had been only a general indication of agreement on the major aspects of an Austrian Treaty, to be followed up by precise drafting on the part of the deputies themselves. Most of the discussion revolved around the question of defining German assets as between immovable fixed property and real estate, and such movable assets as industrial equipment and rolling stock.

RUSSIANS DEMAND LOCOMOTIVES AND ROLLING STOCK AS WAR BOOTY. The Russian representative at the London negotiations on the Austrian State Treaty rejected the restitution to Austria of 350 locomotives and other rolling stock, according to a report from the correspondent of the Austrian News Agency in London. The 350 locomotives have a value of approximately 35 million dollars, the remainder of the equipment being evaluated at 10 million dollars. The rolling stock involved relates to locomotives and railroad cars which are now in service in Austria, but which the Russians have designated as so-called "war booty".

YUGOSLAVS KILL TWO AUSTRIAN POLICEMEN IN BORDER INCIDENT. Two Austrian policemen, on patrol-duty in the vicinity of the town of Windisch-Bleiberg (Carinthia) along the Yugoslav frontier, but on the Austrian side of the border, were shot by Yugoslav soldiers on July 19th of this year. Although their bodies had been dragged to Yugoslav territory and a Yugoslav Commission claimed that the Austrian policemen had crossed over to Yugoslav territory, an Austrian Commission found that the incident had taken place on Austrian soil. Traces of blood could be ascertained in a forest near the border. The Yugoslav soldiers had shot at the two Austrians on Austrian territory, killed them and had then dragged their bodies to Yugoslav territory. The Austrian investigation is being continued.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS AFTER CLOSE OF SPRING SESSION. On July 14th the Austrian Parliament (Nationalrat and Bundesrat) held its last session which terminated the four-year legislative period of the Parliament which had been elected in November 1945. Leopold Kunschak, President of the Nationalrat, thanked the deputies of all parties for their work, which had established the legislative basis for the restoration of the second Austrian Republic. He paid tribute to the strong spirit of unity, which had enabled them to perform their parliamentary work on the basis of the country's and the people's welfare and not primarily on the wishes of the individual parties. President Kunschak further expressed the hope that, after a fair election campaign, the newly-elected representatives would again meet for another legislative period of collective and fruitful work.

1,300,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO VOTE IN VIENNA'S 2,333 ELECTORAL PRECINCTS. Simultaneously with the Austrian parliamentary elections to be held on October 9th of this year, municipal and district elec-

tions will also be held in Vienna. All of these elections were fixed for the same day in order to combine the technical preparations involved and thereby reduce the cost of both elections. Election lists are now being drawn up; these contain the names of 1,300,000 voters, on 80,000 pages, which will be thoroughly checked. The number of candidates of the various parties in Vienna for the representative posts in Parliament, in the Municipal Council and in the District Legislatures will reach the figure of 10,000, only a very small fraction of which will actually be elected.

"AUSTRIA NO FERTILE GROUND FOR RADICALISM", DECLARES CHANCELLOR FIGL. Speaking at the International Youth Congress of the association of European Christian-Democratic Parties (NEI) which was held in Gastein on July 12th, Austrian Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl declared that radicalism is finding no fertile ground in Austria. This applied to Communism as well as to the extreme right-wing ideologies which are beyond the pale of Democracy. In the course of the press conference which followed, Chancellor Figl asserted in reply to a question that Austria desired correct and good-neighborly relations with Germany, but must reject any form of pan-Germanism. With regard to Eastern Europe, Austria was anxious for good economic relations, while insisting on strict non-intervention in the political field.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF STATE TREATY. At a recent conference of Socialist labor union officials, Austria's Minister of Power and Electrification, Dr. Alfred Migsch declared that after the conclusion of the State Treaty a large portion of the "German assets" to be returned by the Russians will become the property of the Austrian State. As is well-known, more than 100 industrial enterprises are involved. The Minister further stated that the loss of Austrian property in Yugoslavia, valued at 120 million dollars, was very regrettable, but Austria was not the only country that had lost its foreign assets as a result of the war. Of much greater importance, Dr. Migsch concluded, was the fact, that the border between Austria and Yugoslavia now appeared to be safe.

U.S. FORCES MAKE SALZBURG AIRPORT AVAILABLE TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl told the Austrian Cabinet on July 19th, that the American High Commissioner in Austria, General Geoffrey Keyes, had advised the Austrian Government that the Salzburg airfield, which heretofore had been used exclusively for military purposes of the American occupation forces, would henceforth also be available for civilian traffic. Austrian authorities will immediatley take over customs- and passport controls at the airfield. This decision by the American occupation forces is all the more important because it now makes Salzburg accessible by plane from all parts of the world for this year's music festival.

"TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR" IN VIENNA. The first "Town Meeting of the Air" took place in Vienna on July 15th under the auspices of the Austro-American Society with the participation of prominent Americans and Austrians in a lively discussion. In the presence of Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl and American High Commissioner General Geoffrey Keyes, two Americans - Mr. Irving Brown, representative of the American Federation of Labor, and General Jesmond D. Balmer, Deputy U.S. High Commissioner in Austria - and two Austrians - Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber and Dr. Oskar Pollak, editor-in-chief of the Vienna newspaper "Arbeiterzeitung" - spoke on the subject: " How can Austria Remain an Independent Democratic Nation". After the four speakers had expressed their affirmative viewpoints on this question, a long discussion with the active participation of the audience followed. The "Town Meeting", which was conducted in English, will be heard on Austrian as well as American radio stations. In the United States, the Vienna Town Meeting of the Air will be rebroadcast over the stations of the American Broadcasting Company. In New York the broadcast will be heard on Tuesday, August 2nd at 8.30 p.m. over station WJZ.

NEW CATHOLIC COADJUTOR APPOINTED FOR LINZ. Pope Pius XII recently appointed the present Rector of the Seminary of Linz, Dr. Franz Zaumer as Coadjutor with right of succession to the Bishop of Linz. The present Bishop of Linz is 53-year old Dr. Joseph Fliesser. The Bishopric of Linz has religious jurisdiction over the entire province of Upper Austria and comprises 35 deanships, 436 parishes and 15

monasteries. The Bishop of Linz is the titular head of 1223 priests (459 of which belong to religious orders) and 931,000 Catholics.

GERMAN GYMNASTIC CLUBS STILL BANNED IN AUSTRIA. The activities of German gymnastic clubs ("Deutsche Turnvereine") in Austria continue to be prohibited, according to a statement released by the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Before the occupation of Austria by Nazi-Germany, these "gymnastic clubs" were the breeding ground of illegal political cells of pan-German and treasonable activity against the existence of the Austrian Republic. An attempt was recently made in Graz to reestablish such a gymnastic club.

FORMER NAZI LEADER EXTRADITED TO AUSTRIA. The Austrian Government has been informed that the American occupation authorities have acceded to the Austrian request that Anton Reinthaller -- former Minister in the Quisling Cabinet of the Austrian Nazi governor Seyss-Inquart, after the occupation of Austria in 1938 -- be extradited to Austria. Reinthaller will be transferred to Austria shortly and will have to face an Austrian People's Court on the charge of high treason.

S.S. CHIEF KALTENBRUNNERS PROPERTY SEIZED IN AUSTRIA. On July 23rd an Austrian People's Court confiscated the personal fortune of Karl Kaltenbrunner, Adolf Hitler's Security Service Chief, who was executed as a major war criminal with other Nazi Leaders at Nurnberg. Karl Kaltenbrunner had been prominent in the Nazi Fifth Column underground movement before the occupation of Austria by Hitler in 1938. After the occupation of Austria Kaltenbrunner became SS-Chief in Vienna and later head of the whole German Security and Espionage Service. He was captured shortly after VE-Day by members of the Austrian Resistance Movement and soldiers of the American Seventh Army in the mountains of Western Austria.

HAKOAH PLAYER OSKAR REICH EXECUTED IN FRANCE. Oscar Reich, former head of the camp police of the concentration camp at Drancy, near Paris, who had recently been condemmed to death by a French military court, has been executed together with Captain von Mahl at Fort Montrouge, in the outskirts of Paris, on July 5th, according to a Reuter report.

Before the war, Oskar Reich had been a prominent player of the Jewish sports club Hakoah in Vienna. In 1938 he emigrated to France and shortly thereafter was alleged to have entered the service of the Gestapo who appointed him as guard in the camp of Drancy. After the war Reich returned to Vienna where, during a soccer game, he was recognized by a former camp inmate and arrested by the Austrian police.

FORMER AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT DIES IN WASHINGTON. Dr. George M. Alexich, assistant professor in the Political Science Department of the Georgetown University Graduate School and a former Austrian diplomat, died on July 15th in Washington, D.C. He was 53 years old.

Dr. Alexich was a native of Vienna and graduated from the Consular Academy there in 1917. That year he entered the Austrian diplomatic service as an Attaché and from 1933 to 1938 served as Minister to The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. When Hitler occupied Austria he resigned and came to the United States in 1940. He joined the staff of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington the next year and remained affiliated with it until his death.

REVIEW OF AUSTRIA'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION. An interesting review of general economic and financial conditions in Austria is contained in a memorandum on the annual 1949/50 ERP-Program recently submitted by the Austrian delegation to the OEEC (Organization of European Economic Cooperation) in Paris.

The initial chapter of this memorandum reads as follows:

Now, at the end of the first Marshall year, Austria has been enabled to overcome to a large extent her difficulties regarding the supply of raw materials and foodstuffs for the Austrian economy with the help of ERP and to reach a level of consumption not far below that of the prewar period due to the reorganization of the general economic situation and particularly due to stabilization of the currency carried out by the Austrian Government. This level of consumption represents the absolute minimum necessary for Austria and cannot be reduced without jeopardizing the maintenance of normal political

and economic life and the working efficiency of the entire population. It should not be forgotten that Austria's standard of living was extremely low, even during the years between the two wars, as compared to her standard of culture, owing to the country's difficult economic situation during that period. Moreover, Austria had 400,000 unemployed in 1938 and their consumption level was below the minimum absolutely indispensable for adequate performance of work and willingness to work. Finally, a great demand for the most basic essentials of everyday life (clothing, household utensils, furniture) has accumulated, as a result of restrictions imposed on consumer's goods from 1938 to 1948 as well as a result of direct war losses. Therefore, the same amount of net income as before the war does not today truly represent the same standard of living for the working population. Thus, in spite of the fact that the portion of national income spent on consumer's goods is now approximately the same as before the war, the living standard of the working population has not yet reached the prewar level. However, Austria must be content with this minimum standard for the time being, in view of the necessity of restoring her economic independence from foreign aid and of spending such increases of the national income as can be obtained from further ERP funds, almost exclusively on capital investments.

In accordance with these considerations certain drastic measures had to be adopted in May 1949 with a view to using any increase of production, and with it, any further increase of the national income, for the expansion of investments and for the prevention of a further increase in consumption. An increase in total economic production with the same number of employed, i.e. an increase of individual productivity, would, without the following drastic measures, have led to an increase in wages, on the one hand, and to a reduction of prices, on the other, and consequently, in an indirect way, to an increase of net income and partly to higher profits of which at least a proportion would have been spent on consumer articles. The following measures are calculated to channel all further increases in economic productivity into the promotion of investments, instead of raising the consumption level:

a.) The use of profits for investment instead of consumption purposes is being promoted by tax-relief on such profits as are used for investments.

b.) Part of the savings in operating costs expected to result from possible reductions of net costs during the next year will be absorbed by a 50% increase of the turnover tax so that the major part of these savings will serve public investments and not raise the consumption of the population.

c.) Such wage and consumption increases as may result from an increase in production and productivity will be balanced off by a concomitant discontinuance of any direct and indirect subsidies which will lead to an increase in the price of some articles. The termination of subsidies for food and coal and the increase of electricity, gas, transport and postage rates to cover the operating or production costs will cause some prices to go up, which will in turn compensate the justifiable 10% increase of wages and salaries.

d.) A domestic loan to be floated under particularly favorable conditions will serve to stimulate private savings and to finance state expenditures for extraordinary investments.

e.) The expense for the support of the occupation troops, who are still in the country will be met from an occupation tax so that neither will the currency be jeopardized, in the future, by occupation costs, nor will the available credit volume required for economic development be reduced by the banks accepting federal treasury bills to cover the occupation costs.

f.) Thanks to these measures the national budget will be entirely balanced in 1949-50. Whereas a deficit of 500-600 mill. schillings in the budget will be apparent for the first half of 1949 owing to the expenses for occupation costs, DP camps, subsidies and various unforeseen additional expenditures, a balanced budget is expected for the second half of 1949. Moreover, it may well be possible during the first half of 1950 to cover a part of public investments (which had to be covered hitherto from the extraordinary budget) by current

revenues. As a result, relief funds will be used less for public investments and the possibility for financing direct productive investments of the economy out of relief funds will be considerably enhanced.

g.) At the same time a noteworthy increase of investments by self-financing will be effected by the Investment Promotion Law while the expected balance of the budget will contribute to long-term investments under the Long-Term Program without jeopardizing the country's currency.

Further details on the revised annual 1949-50 program will be published in the next issue of the "Austrian Information" bulletin.

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE WITH EUROPE. In 1948 Austria's foreign trade with the rest of Europe was almost equally balanced between exports and imports. Of the total volume of foreign trade, imports from European countries amounted to 86,6% and exports to European countries amounted to 87,1%.

In the first quarter of 1949, Austria's foreign trade continued to register a slow but steady progress, with the month of March marking the highest monthly export-import turnover in Austrian foreign trade since the end of the war.

Although some changes have taken place in the first three months of 1949 with regard to the respective importance of her trade partners, the overall picture of Austria's foreign trade balance, as compared to 1948, showed no noticeable change.

Total imports from European countries in the first quarter of this year amounted to 799 million schillings.

The main item of imports from Germany, which heads the list of selling countries, consisted of mineral fuels (74%), although machinery and iron products were also imported in considerable quantities from that country. Second on the list of supplier countries was Italy which provided, among other items, tropical fruit, silk fabrics and silk goods, iron goods and vegetables. It should be noted that the new trade agreement with Italy went into effect on April 1, 1949, and therefore had no effect on the trade figures of the first quarter of the year. Forty-nine percent of the imports from Czechoslovakia consisted of fuel and more than 90% of those from Poland consisted of coal. Wool accounted for approximately one third of the merchandise Austria imported from Great Britain - now fourth on the list of foreign suppliers.

Austria's total exports to Europe during the same period amounted to about 646 million schillings.

The exports to Italy reached a record level during this period and consisted primarily of pig iron, wood, paper pulp, iron and finished paper products. Switzerland and Yugoslavia bought especially iron goods, with the latter country also purchasing large quantities of paper and pig iron.

Most of Austria's exports consisted of raw materials like wood and pig iron and of finished products based upon these raw materials such as paper, paper goods and iron goods. These export items continued to represent, in the period under consideration, a very notable export value.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRIA'S IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE WITH EUROPE.

Country of Origin	1st Quarter of 1949	Order	1948	Order
IMPORTS:				
Germany	15.5	1	17.9	1
Italy	14.7	2	11.0	2
Czechoslovakia	7.0	3	10.8	3
Great Britain	6.9	4	5.5	6
Poland	6.4	5	8.6	4
France	5.5	6	2.7	10
Yugoslavia	5.0	7	4.8	7
Belgium-Luxemburg	4.5	8	1.4	12
Switzerland	4.3	9	8.5	5
Netherlands	4.0	10	3.2	9
Hungary	3.9	11	4.6	8
Sweden	1.5	12	1.6	11
Denmark	1.2	13	1.0	15
Norway	1.2	14	1.1	14
Rumania	1.0	15	0.9	16
Turkey	1.0	16	0.8	17

cont'd

Country of Origin	1st Quarter of 1949	Order	1948	Order
Greece	0.6	17	0.4	18
Trieste	0.5	18	0.1	20
Bulgaria	0.4	19	1.3	13
Spain	0.1	20	0.3	19
Finland	---	--	0.1	21
Portugal	---	--	0.1	22
Rest of Europe	0.1	21	---	--
	85.3		86.6	

EXPORTS:

Italy	23.4	1	17.0	1
Switzerland	6.5	2	13.3	2
Yugoslavia	6.2	3	4.9	6
Germany	6.1	4	5.8	5
Great Britain	5.9	5	7.4	4
Czechoslovakia	5.3	6	7.5	3
France	4.9	7	4.3	7
Netherlands	4.0	8	4.0	8
Poland	3.0	9	1.4	15
Hungary	2.9	10	3.7	10
Greece	2.8	11	3.0	11
Belgium-Luxemburg	2.6	12	2.0	13
Trieste	2.6	13	1.6	14
Turkey	2.5	14	2.3	12
Bulgaria	1.9	15	1.2	16
Sweden	1.9	16	3.8	9
Denmark	1.6	17	1.2	17
Rumania	1.0	18	0.9	18
Finland	0.6	19	0.5	20
Norway	0.6	20	0.7	19
Portugal	0.6	21	0.1	22
Spain	0.3	22	0.4	21
Rest of Europe	---	--	0.1	23
	88.2		87.1	

AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY PRODUCING GIANT RAIL CARS. The "Simmering-Graz-Pauker" Rail Car Company has recently begun production of a 95-foot long, 18-axle gondola (freight) cars with a tar of 85 tons and a carrying capacity of 187 tons. This rail car can be extended to a length of 190 feet by means of an intermediate support. These cars which cost 700,000 schillings (70,000 dollars) to construct are intended primarily for the transport of electric power transformers, and other special machinery. The "Simmering-Graz-Pauker" Car Company is one of Austria's leading export concerns. It is now supplying a large number of passenger- and freightcars (2-axle and 4-axle cars) to Germany, Turkey, the Balkan countries and the Near East. This company is also supplying Diesel rail motor trains made of light metal to Argentina and other South-American countries. In addition, its plants are turning out express cars for the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons Lits and for the Austrian Federal Railroads.

AUSTRIA'S NITROGEN WORKS IN LINZ. The Austrian Institute of Economic Research, in the June issue of its Monthly Bulletin, published an interesting account of the development and capacity of Austria's largest nitrogen works at Linz, the "Oesterreichische Stickstoffwerke A.G." Here are a few highlights from this well-documented report.

The Austrian Nitrogen Works, Inc. were planned in the year 1939 along the latest technical lines and installed in the South-Eastern section of the city of Linz. The nitrogen plant was joined with the neighboring foundries and steel works both for its supply of raw materials as well as its source of power (supply of coke gas, steam power and electric energy). Production finally began in 1942 and, after the interruption at the end of the war, resumed in 1946. Recently the nitrogen works began construction of an installation for the supply of gas and a plant for the production of steam power in order not to be entirely dependent on the foundry works for their supply of power (and also for reasons of economy). But for the

present these two installations will be used only as a reserve to draw on in case of emergency and in order to cover peak operating requirements.

The nitrogen plant now has a labor force of 2600, 500 of whom are employees and 2100 workers.

Its main product is nitrate of lime and ammonia, a nitrogen fertilizer consisting of a mixture of nitrate of ammonia and calcium carbonate (limestone) which contains about 20% pure nitrogen. Some 90% of the total output value is now concentrated on nitrate of lime and ammonia. In addition, several other nitrogen compounds are being produced from the by-products and waste products, but these are of secondary commercial value.

The planned capacity of the works, at the time of their establishment, was 60,000 tons of pure nitrogen per year, i.e. 300,000 tons of nitrate of lime and ammonia per year or 25,000 tons per month. Last year, after all the war damage had been repaired, the plant's productive capacity had again reached this level.

With the exception of the temporary production setbacks during the winter months of 1946/47 resulting from the shortage of coal, production at the nitrogen works of Linz, during the past three years, has steadily increased from 2,500 tons in June 1946 to 26,725 tons in May 1949. Full capacity use of the plant had been assured since the middle of 1948. (The production drop in March 1949 was due to temporary damage in the installations).

The world-wide shortage of nitrogen fertilizer during the last few years, which led to international control by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in Washington, opened many large-scale export possibilities for the plant's output and further prompted plans for a considerable expansion of the plant's productive capacity. Latest developments in the world production of nitrogen fertilizer indicate however that nitrogen fertilizer requirements will presumably be fully met by July 1949. This realization induced Washington to lift international controls on June 30th. The Austrian Nitrogen Works, Inc. have therefore shelved their plans for any further expansion of their capacity. Investments for the improvement of existing installations will be made shortly. The cost of the contemplated improvements will run to about 8 million dollars, 3.88 of which are expected to be made available from ERP funds.

Full capacity production is expected to continue for some time; the yearly output of 60,000 tons of pure nitrogen will, it is hoped, be more or less evenly divided between the domestic and foreign markets.

AUSTRIA TO MAKE COMPLETE STEEL BRIDGE FOR FINLAND. The steel construction department of the Linz Steel Works has succeeded in obtaining an order which is unique in the post-war era. The VOEST (United Austrian Steel Works) has accepted to supply Finland with a complete steel bridge, which will have a total weight of more than 200 tons. Payment will be effected in a Western currency.

LARGE-SCALE ORDER RECEIVED BY THE GABLONZ GLASS INDUSTRY IN AUSTRIA. Italian firms have placed a large-scale order of 1-1/2 million schillings of rosaries and necklaces with the Cooperative of Glass- and Jewelery Manufacturers in Rosensteinleiten for the coming Holy Year. This order will ensure three months of full production of the Gablonz enterprises.

AUSTRIA NEEDS AUTOMATIC AND JAQUARD LOOMS. The Federal Ministry of Property Custody and Economic Planning announces that at the present time Austria needs about 1,000 automatic looms and 1,000 Jaquard looms. American firms interested in supplying such looms should submit their non-binding offers, together with descriptive literature to the "Bundesministerium fuer Vermoegenssicherung und Wirtschaftsplanung", Ballhausplatz 1, Vienna 1, (Federal Ministry of Property Custody and Economic Planning); copies of these offers should also be addressed to the "Fachverband der Textilindustrie" (Trade Association of the Textile Industry) Boersegasse 18, Vienna 1.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 50th INTERNATIONAL VIENNA FAIR. The 50th International Vienna Fair will be held in the week from September 10th to the 17th. The first Vienna Fair was opened on September 11th 1921. Since then, it has been held regularly twice a year - in spring and in fall - except during the German occupation. The first such post-war fair was held in November 1945. In addition to the

participation of almost all of Austria's industry, trade and agriculture, a series of foreign countries will also be represented at this year's Fall Fair. So far, official requests for display space have been received from Egypt, Bulgaria, Italy, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Poland and Turkey. Final negotiations for the participation of numerous other European and South-American states are about to be concluded.

528 WAR-DAMAGED BRIDGES REBUILT. During the war more than 600 bridges had been destroyed in Austria as a result of air attacks, dynamiting and artillery fire. By June 30th of this year, 528 of these bridges had been completely repaired, including 39 railroad bridges, with work still continuing on the remainder. The largest of the reconstructed bridges is the bridge across the Danube at Tulln (Lower Austria) which had to be completely rebuilt. This bridge has a total length of 1,476 feet and its traffic facilities include a two-track rail road and a two-lane motor road. It is supported by 5 trusses which have a span of 278 feet. At the end of the war four of the five bridges across the Danube in Vienna had been severely damaged and were unusable. Today three of these have been restored to traffic with work still being continued on the fourth. Several difficult bridge constructions have also been completed in Austria's alpine regions. The most noteworthy of these is the bridge across the Inn at Brixlegg, in the Tyrol, the construction of which was completed in a record time of five months. Its completion in the fall of 1945 made possible a resumption of the international Arlberg and Orient Express lines between Western and Southeastern Europe.

1948 CENSUS SHOWS 200,000 MOTOR VEHICLES IN AUSTRIA. By the end of 1948, the number of motor vehicles in Austria had surpassed by far the 200,000 mark. This figure represents a 60% increase over the results of the last motor vehicle census of the prewar period which was taken in 1937. In 1948 alone, the number of motor vehicles increased by 38%. According to a report of the Austrian Central Office of Statistics in Vienna, Austria had on October 31, 1948 34,382 passengercars (of which 11,200 in Vienna), 49,511 trucks, approximately 2,000 buses, 103,719 motorcycles and about 17,000 tractors and motor vehicles of special type. Of the 200,000-odd motor vehicles in Austria, 46,516 are in Vienna (or about 25% of the national total), 39,421 in Upper Austria and 36,939 in Lower Austria. The Burgenland has the least number of vehicles: namely only 4,198 or about 2% of the national total.

EASTERN TYROL INVADED BY VULTURES. During the last few weeks large groups of vultures, which caused considerable damage to sheep and goat herds, were observed in several areas of the Tyrol, especially in the Tauern Valley in the East Tyrol. The vultures, Europe's largest birds of prey, appear in groups of 30 to 40 birds and conduct what are actually well-planned attacks on sheep and goat herds and even on grazing cows and deers. Several hundred animals have already fallen victim to these attacks. Human beings have also been attacked by swarms of vultures. Generally, these large birds are found in the Atlas mountains (North Africa), in the Pyrenees and in the Himalayas. Single vultures have always been known to have nested in the Austrian Alps but such large flocks as have now appeared in the Tyrol have not been seen in Central Europe for generations.

SEMMERING TOURIST CENTER BACK TO PEACE-TIME LEVEL. The famous vacation resort Semmering which had been almost completely destroyed during the fighting in the closing days of the war has now resumed its normal peace-time activity. The Semmering is 4,000 feet above sea level and only two hours from Vienna by train. Its luxurious hotels, swimming places, golf courses and ski runs have been a major attraction for foreign as well as domestic tourists in Austria in summer as well as winter. Although before the war the resort had accomodations for more than 5,000 tourists, this figure dropped to less than 50 in the year 1945 as a result of war damage. Thanks to the intense reconstruction work accomplished it has again been possible to restore a large number of hotels to public use. Today accomodations are available for more than 2,000 people and the two leading hotels, the "Panhans" and the "Suedbahnhotel" have been completely renovated.

"TOUR D'AUTRICHE", MAIN FEATURE OF AUSTRIAN BICYCLE RACING SEASON. The "Tour d'Autriche", an international bicycle race covering 760 miles, is being held in Austria from July 23rd to the 30th. The tour is being run in 7 daily stages, and represents one of Europe's major bicycle events. Next to the "Tour de France" it is generally considered the most difficult racing circuit on the Continent. This year's participants include, in addition to Austria's star racers, representatives of England, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The run starts in Vienna, leads over the Semmering Pass to Graz, and from there continues to Klagenfurt across the Gross Glockner mountain climb - which represents the most difficult stage - and then back to Vienna via Zell am See, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Linz.

SALZBURG FESTIVAL SOLD OUT UNTIL AUGUST 15th, NOVOTNA TO SING "EURYDICE". The latest news reports from Mozart's native Salzburg indicate that this year's Festival, the world's leading summer music event, is completely sold out until August 15th. It is also learned that in addition to her rôle in the "Rosenkavalier", Jarmila Novotna will also sing the part of Eurydice in "Orpheus". The roster of world-famous artists participating in the Salzburg Festival include the conductors Furtwaengler, Bruno Walter, Josef Krips, George Szell, Herbert Karajan, Hans Knappertsbusch, Edwin Fischer, Ferenc Fricsay; the singers Jarmila Novotna, Julius Patzak, Marta Rohs, Irmgard Seefried, Kathleen Ferrier, Thorston Ralf; the chamber music trio Fischer-Mainardi-Schneiderhan and the actors Helene Thimig and Attila Hoerbiger.

Although hotel accomodations in Salzburg proper are no longer available, rooms can still be had in private houses in the city and in hotels located at nearby lake resorts. In the wateringplace of Bad Gastein the expensive hotels have all been sold out, but accommodations may still be had in smaller places.

WORLD PREMIERE OF THE BEETHOVEN FILM "EROICA" IN SALZBURG. The world première of the Beethoven film "Eroica" took place on July 29th in the Mirabell-Theater in Salzburg. The film was produced by "Wiener Kunstfilm" under the auspices of the "Neue Wiener Filmproduktionsgesellschaft" and is being distributed by "Sascha Films".

The leading parts are played by Ewald Balser, Marianne Schoenauer, Judith Holzmeister and Oskar Werner. The film features the Vienna Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony and the Vienna Choir Boys under the musical direction of Hans Knappertsbusch.

FAMOUS PUPPET THEATER BACK IN SALZBURG AFTER SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN TOUR. The unique "Salzburger Marionettentheater", which has given well over 1000 guest performances throughout Europe, has just returned to Salzburg after a highly successful tour of the Continent and the British Isles. It is generally agreed that this puppet show is the most distinguished of its kind in Europe, having developed this old art to an unprecedented degree of perfection.

The Salzburg Puppet Theater was founded a quarter of a century ago by Professor Anton Aicher, a well-known sculptor in his own right. After years of painstaking work, means were found to enhance the mobility of the puppets and combine music, speech, light and color into a harmonious whole. The puppet mechanism is a highly intricate one, having between eight and sixteen wires which converge into the hands of the manipulator who controls only one marionette. Special dancing puppets sometime require two or more manipulators, for each of their joints is the subject of considerable study and comparison with the human body and therefore requires undivided attention and great dexterity of manipulation. One of the best-known of such dancing puppets in the Salzburg group is the one representing the late Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova. It took no less than 400 rehearsals and numerous changes in construction to make this particular puppet the success it has been all over Europe.

The mobility of the Salzburg puppets is remarkable: their heads may be turned in all directions and their arms and legs, which have two joints each, can be made to walk, jump, sit down with dignity (or otherwise) in a chair or at a table, enter a car or a carriage, turn somersaults, clim ladders or rocks and can be made to go through many other motions including some of the less conventional ones.

The Salzburg puppets are never manipulated and "spoken" by the same person. An average performance will require anywhere from 6 to

10 manipulators and between 5 and 10 actors and singers. The former work above the stage and the latter are in a specially-constructed room in front of the stage. Inasmuch as words and gestures must be perfectly synchronized, special mirror and sound devices keep both groups in close contact.

The stage itself is equipped with miniature replicas of almost all the latest technical stage devices known to the theater, such as footlights and spotlights (with the five color arrangement), special light and sound effects for the reproduction of almost any kind of weather, intricate mechanical devices for fire-spitting dragons as well as genuine explosions, and of course an ingeniously constructed revolving floor and sliding panels for swift changes of scenery. All these devices combine to produce a complete concordance of color, sound and movement.

The Salzburg Puppet Theater has so far created about one thousand different marionettes and many striking stage sets and costumes. This rich selection of wooden "talent" has enabled the theater to produce many diversified, but select plays. The immortal creations of Mozart have always occupied a place of honor in the theater's repertoire. As a rule, only such plays are shown which are but rarely performed on conventional stages, such as, for instance, "Apollo and Hyacinthus" which Mozart composed at the age of eleven, "Bastien and Bastienne" which he wrote at the age of thirteen and the "Impresario" which he created at the age of thirty. The repertoire also includes historic episodes of Mozart's early life such as "Mozart and the Butcher" and "At the Court of Empress Maria Theresa", and many tales such as "Dr. Faustus" which is the oldest German puppet play.

The Salzburg Puppet Theater has received many high awards for its unexcelled artistic performances. The most noted of these is the Golden Medal and Scroll of Honor which was awarded to it at the International Exhibition in Paris in 1937.

GREAT SUCCESS OF VIENNA STATE OPERA IN AMSTERDAM. After its successful guest performances in Belgium, the Vienna State Opera ensemble recently arrived in Amsterdam. Its appearance in the Netherlands was the high point of that country's music festivals. All performances were already sold out three hours after the tickets had gone on sale. The first presentation of the "Abduction from the Seraglio" was a tremendous success. The audience acclaimed the performers repeatedly with stormy applause during the performance and, at the end, greeted the artists and the conductor Prof. Krips with great ovations.

SET SVANHOLM TO SING AT THE VIENNA OPERA. The famous tenor Set Svanholm, who had already sung in Vienna before the war, has been engaged by the Vienna State Opera for a number of performances during the coming season. Set Svanholm is today considered one of the best Wagner singers and has appeared in guest performances throughout the world. He has also sung at the Metropolitan Opera. In Vienna he will appear as Lohengrin and as Radames. Other singers who have signed contracts with the Vienna State Opera for the coming season are the Swiss tenor Max Lichtegg, who will appear in 20 performances, the American baritone George London and the coloratura Sari Barabas.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MAGAZINES NEEDED IN AUSTRIA. "Austrian Information" has received the following communication from Dr. Henry H. Hausner of New York University: "The scientific institutes in Austria such as academies, universities, technological institutes, etc., do not have sufficient funds to subscribe toforeign scientific or technical publications. The scientists at these institutes have therefore, to a large extent, lost contact with foreign scientific literature and technical developments. For some time now, I have been sending the technical and scientific magazines to which I subscribe to universities in Austria and the response I have received has been truly gratifying. Thanks to this activity, I have been fortunate enough to establish excellent contact with Austrian colleagues who have sent me their interesting publications in exchange. I suggest that Austrian citizens or former Austrian citizens now living in the United States forward scientific or technical magazines of their specialized field to Austria in order to help Austrian scientists in their work. I shall be very glad to furnish information and addresses of Austrian scientists and scientific institutions who are in urgent need of such literature." Dr. Hausner's address ist: 155 Riverside Drive, New York 24, N.Y.